

Certification Board Chairman
Florida State Music Teachers Association
October 24, 2010

Action since last meeting:

- Responded to all mail and phone calls received and researched files for answers to questions from FSMTA members, officers and chairmen; copied FSMTA and MTNA correspondence to Jo Plunkett, Southeastern Region MTNA Certification Commissioner; reprinted Certification Handbook; submitted articles for our newsletters.
- Am announcing the MTNA certification of Carolyn Schlatter. Carolyn is a teacher at Northwest Florida State College. Her's is a College Faculty certification.
- Conducted correspondence regarding the expectation that three FSMTA members would take the MTNA examination (under the old plan) at the November meeting in Sarasota; All three members, Peggy Gallagher, Marie Budinsky-Maher and Mary Beth Purchase, have opted to take the examinations at an independent testing facility in South Florida instead.
- Continued working with FSMTA President Marc Hebda to finalize FSMTA certification examinations for teachers without music degrees. FSMTA had been relying on using the MTNA certification examinations for these members who wanted to take them to receive FSMTA certification. As of January 1, 2010, MTNA is no longer administering these MTNA certification examinations. The FSMTA Provisional Chairman has examinations for teachers moving from Provisional to Active membership status. FSMTA exams for FSMTA certification are to determine the general musical knowledge of these teachers who would like to be certified by FSMTA. Several years ago a motion had been previously passed to produce tests for FSMTA. Therefore, the decision was made to move ahead and develop FSMTA certification tests for Theory and Pedagogy. President Hebda kindly obtained highly skilled persons to prepare these two tests for FSMTA to have them available by January 1, 2010 when MTNA would no longer be administering theirs. The FSMTA test for Pedagogy has been prepared by Dr. Vicki McArthur. The Theory test has been prepared by Dr. Valentin Bogdan. These two tests were finalized before the June 2010 meeting. Until a specialist in Music History and Literature could be obtained, we expected to have the FSMTA Student Day examiner determine the teacher's level of general musical understanding. Now a specialist, Dr. Jennifer Donelson, has agreed to develop the FSMTA Music History Certification Examination. Performance competency (when necessary) is to be assessed by an FSMTA performer (in the specified instrumental area) who is acceptable to the certification credentials committee.

Am now asking FSMTA to join me in showing our deep appreciation to President Hebda for his thoroughness and expertise in overseeing the work of all of the FSMTA Certification Examination Specialists. These are: Dr. Vickie McArthur (Pedagogy), Dr. Valentin Bogdan (Theory), and Dr. Jennifer Donelson (Music History.) FSMTA is deeply indebted to these four individuals.

- The Certification Board will be asked to assist, at this meeting, in designating necessary housekeeping changes on our application forms and in our certification handbook. Any changes will require the approval of the Certification Board and the FSMTA President. (No changes other than "housekeeping" ones are anticipated.)

With gratitude for your confidence in this chairman,

Helen Hartman Dingus

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